

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /091 W

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P R 221613Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2807

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5889

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MO, SS, SP, UN

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: SPANISH EFFORTS TO KEEP

UN ENGAGED IN PEACEKEEPING ROLE

REF : MADRID 5039

SUMMARY: MFA TOLD EMBOFFS AUG 21 THAT GOS RENEWED REQUEST TO UNSYG AUG 21 TO SUPPORT QUADRIpartite TALKS ON SAHARA AND TO SEND PERSONAL REP TO SAHARA. THE GOS OBJECTIVE IS TO CREATE FRAMEWORK TO MAINTAIN PEACE IN AREA PENDING DEFINITIVE UN DECISIONS ON MANNER OF DECOLO- NIZATION IN SAHARA. MFA SOURCE SAID UN COULD EXPECT SPAIN TO CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR INTERNAL DECOLONIZATION IN SAHARA BUT NOT TO SUFFER CASUALTIES FOR AREA'S EXTERNAL DEFENSE. GOS BELIEVES MOROCCAN ARMY ON SAHARA'S FRONTIER IS DEMORALIZED AND MUTINOUS. KING HASSAN'S AGGRESSIVE AUG 20 SPEECH HAS GIVEN RISE TO CONCERN THAT MOROCCANS MAY ESCALATE SAHARAN VIOLENCE. PRIOR TO SPEECH MFA HAD DISCERNED SOME SIGNS OF GRADUAL MOROCCAN THAWING TOWARD QUADRIpartite TALKS IDEA. END SUMMARY

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1. IN INITIAL COURTESY CALL BY POL COUNSELOR, ACCOMPANIED BY POL OFFICER, MFA DIRGEN FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS (BENITO) DESCRIBED CURRENT GOS POLICY ON SAHARA AS FOLLOWS:

2. SPAIN WAS COMMITTED TO WITHDRAWAL AND PEACEFUL DECOLONIZATION CONSISTENT WITH UNGA RESOLUTIONS. SPANISH RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECOLONIZATION AND TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY DID NOT INCLUDE, HOWEVER, RESPONSIBILITY AGAINST EXTERNAL ATTACKS BY SAHARA'S NEIGHBORS. THIS WAS UN RESPONSIBILITY. GOS THEREFORE HAD SUBMITTED IN MAY TWO-PART PROPOSAL TO UNSYG: (A) A FOUR-POWER CONFERENCE AMONG INTERESTED PARTIES (SPAIN, MOROCCO, MAURITANIA, AND ALGERIA), AND (B) THE DISPATCH OF A UNSYG REP TO SAHARA. BENITO SAID GOS' INTENTION WAS TO LIMIT QUADRIPARTITE TALKS STRICTLY TO SEEKING WAYS OF PRESERVING PEACE IN AREA, IN ORDER TO ASSUAGE MOROCCAN FEARS THAT SUCH TALKS MIGHT GRANT ALGERIA RIGHTS IN THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION. GOS REGRETTED IT HAD NOT RECEIVED A MORE SATISFACTORY ANSWER TO UNDER SECRETARY ROVIRA'S MID-JUNE REQUEST TO DEPSEC SISCO FOR U.S. SUPPORT OF THIS PROPOSAL IN RABAT.

3. BENITO TOLD EMBOFFS SPANISH AMB TO UN RENEWED GOS PROPOSALS TO UNSYG AUG 20. UP TO NOW ONLY ALGERIA HAS ASSENTED. MAURITANIA INDICATED THAT IT WOULD NOT REPLY UNLESS MOROCCO REPLIED. MOROCCO HAD SAID IT OBJECTED TO ALGERIAN ATTENDANCE. PRIOR TO HASSAN'S AGGRESSIVE SPEECH, REPORTEDLY CALLING FOR INVASION OF SAHARA BY END OF YEAR IF SATISFACTORY UN ACTION NOT FORTHCOMING. GOS HAD IMPRESSION THAT MOROCCANS WERE GRADUALLY MOVING TOWARDS ACCEPTANCE OF FOUR-POWER TALKS.

4. MFA BELIEVES THAT UNSYG HAS AUTHORITY UNDER ARTICLE 99 OF CHARTER TO DISPATCH PERSONAL REP TO SAHARA TO REPORT ON THE SITUATION SINCE THE MAY VISIT BY COMMITTEE OF 24 SPECIAL MISSION.

5. BENITO UNDERScoreD DANGERS INVOLVED IN FURTHER VIOLENCE IN SAHARA. HASSAN'S SPEECH MIGHT HAVE BEEN MADE SOLELY FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, BUT IT WAS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN. A MAJOR MOROCCAN ESCALATION WOULD PUT CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESSURE ON SPANISH ARMY TO CARRY OUT MAJOR REPRISALS LEADING TO MORE SERIOUS SITUATION. AREA HAD TO BE FREE OF VIOLENCE FOR GOS TO CARRY OUT PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY DECOLONIZATION. OTHERWISE, THE GOS WOULD PUT THE ISSUE IN THE LAP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND, IF NECESSARY, SIMPLY PULL OUT.

6. BENITO SAID THE GOS BELIEVED THAT HASSAN'S INTERNAL

POSITION WAS EXTREMELY VULNERABLE. HASSAN'S DISTRUST OF HIS OWN ARMY WAS SUCH THAT HE EVEN DENIED SOME UNITS MUNITIONS AND ASSIGNED OTHERS TO AREAS WHERE THEY COULD NOT THREATEN GOVT. MOROCCAN TROOPS WHICH HAD FOUGHT WELL AGAINST ISRAEL RETURNED HOME WITH HIGH MORALE BUT HAVE SINCE BEEN PLACED ALONG SAHARAN BORDER IN EXTREMELY UNFAVORABLE SITUATION. BENITO SAID THAT GOS' INTELLIGENCE INDICATED THAT BAD CONDITIONS AND FRUSTRATION OVER INACTIVITY HAVE LED TO DECLINE IN MORALE AND EVEN TO MUTINIES (PRESS REPORTS FROM EL AAIUN ALLEGE THAT MOROCCAN PRISONERS CAPTURED IN RECENT INCIDENTS WERE IN RUN-DOWN HEALTH STEMMING FROM UNHEALTHY AND UNSANITARY CONDITIONS IN WHICH THEY WERE BIVOUACKED).

7. THE REDEFINITION OF THE GOS' QUADRIpartite PROPOSAL TO LIMIT IT EXPLICITLY TO KEEPING THE PEACE, SUGGESTS THE SPANISH HAVE BEEN MAKING AN EFFORT TO MAKE PROPOSAL MORE PALATABLE TO MOROCCO.
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